REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action indicated that claims 6-15, 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By present amendment, without addressing the merits of any of the rejections, applicants have herein amended the claims such that all of the independent claims contain subject matter indicated as being allowable. Applicants also have amended certain claims to correct errors of a typographical type of nature, and not in view of the prior art. Applicants submit that all of the amendments herein are for the purposes of expediting allowance, and not in view of the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10, and claim 10 has been canceled as duplicative, and not in view of the prior art; claim 11 has been amended to be dependent on claim 1 instead of now canceled claim 10 and not in view of the prior art. New claims 20-23 include the subject matter of base claim 1 (prior to this amendment) and intervening claim 5, and correspond to allowable claims 6-9 and 18, respectively.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 17, and claim 17 has been canceled as duplicative, and not in view of the prior art.

Claim 18 has been amended to be dependent on claim 16 instead of now canceled claim 17, and not in view of the prior art.

Claim 19 has been canceled to expedite allowance, and not in view of the prior art.

Applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office action is respectfully requested, and timely allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9, 11-16, 18 and 20-23 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment along with Transmittal are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: May 30, 2006

Albert S. Michalik

2371 Amendment